

VZCZCXRO4789
OO RUEHCN RUEHGH RUEHVC
DE RUEHBJ #0953/01 0992308
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 092308Z APR 09
FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3374
INFO RUEHAST/USOFFICE ALMATY 0003
RUEHPB/AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY 0146
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 0369
RUEHOO/CHINA POSTS COLLECTIVE
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 BEIJING 000953

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PARM](#) [EFIN](#) [KNNP](#) [KCRM](#) [CH](#) [KS](#) [KN](#) [FR](#) [IR](#)
TW, XC, KZ, PP

SUBJECT: APRIL 9 MFA PRESS BRIEFING: DPRK LAUNCH, IRAN DIALOGUE,
XINJIANG, TIBET, LIMMT SANCTIONS, TAIWAN SHIP HIJACKING, CYBER-SPY
ATTACK, ANTI-DUMPING SUIT, BO'AO FORUM

BEIJING 00000953 001.2 OF 003

11. Key points at the April 9 MFA press briefing:

- China believes "pressure will not help" the situation in North Korea, "diplomatic efforts" need to be continued and all parties should "exercise calmness, restraint and caution."
- China "takes note of" North Korea's announcement of having launched a satellite, as opposed to a missile.
- China maintains an "open attitude" toward proposals encouraging negotiation and dialogue with Iran.
- Regarding LIMMT, China opposes the United States "invoking domestic law" to impose sanctions on a Chinese company.
- Regarding the Taiwan fishing vessel hijacked by Somali pirates, China has contacted authorities in Taiwan to express its "willingness to assist" with the ship's rescue.
- Sino-French relations are in "recovery," and three former French leaders will visit China in April.
- China urges American media to "prudently" handle "erroneous accusations" alleging that Chinese cyber-spies hacked into the U.S. electric grid. The spokesperson claimed the White House had denied the report.
- Former President George W. Bush will attend the Bo'ao Forum for Asia (BFA) April 17-19 in Hainan.

North Korea

12. As a starting point, all relevant parties should work to "safeguard peace and stability" on the Korean Peninsula to "enhance understanding and mutual trust and to build harmony," said spokesperson Jiang Yu at the April 9 regular MFA press conference in response to a question about Senator McCain's recent comment that China should strengthen its stance against North Korea and push for stronger international sanctions through the UN Security Council (UNSC). Jiang Yu added that "pressure will not help" the situation, "diplomatic efforts" need to be continued and all parties should "exercise calmness, restraint and caution."

13. When asked if China would support a new UNSC resolution on North Korea or prefer a UNSC statement, Jiang Yu replied that China's position is that the UNSC should proceed with the "appropriate response" to safeguard "peace and stability" in the region. She added that China has engaged in "communication and coordination" in

"bilateral and multilateral channels" and hopes the issues can be "properly handled through dialogue and consultation."

¶4. China "takes note" of North Korea's announcement of having launched a satellite, replied Jiang Yu when asked if China believed a satellite or a missile had been launched.

P5+1 Statement on Iran

¶5. When asked about the recent statement issued by the P5+1 announcing EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana's intention to invite the Iranian Government to engage in dialogue, Jiang Yu said China maintains an "open attitude" toward proposals encouraging negotiation and dialogue and hopes that a "long-term comprehensive resolution" of the issue can be found.

Executions in Xinjiang

¶6. Jiang Yu referred a journalist to local authorities when asked about the recent execution of two Uighurs for an attack on border police in Xinjiang last August that left 17 dead. She added that China processes such cases "in accordance with the law" and that in China "everyone is equal before the law."

Death Sentences in Tibet

¶7. The arson attacks that occurred during the March 14, 2008 Lhasa incident "undermined the safety, life and assets of local people" and "threatened law and order," said Jiang Yu when asked about the four Tibetans recently sentenced to death for starting deadly fires during last year's unrest in the region. She pointed out that the

BEIJING 00000953 002.2 OF 003

convictions were handed down in "strict accordance with the Chinese legal system" and that the legal rights of those convicted were "fully granted." She asserted that their "ethnic habits and dignity were fully respected" and that "judicial authorities in China have always handled cases according to law."

LIMMT Sanctions

¶8. China has "taken note" of the sanctions imposed on LIMMT Economic and Trade Co. Ltd. and the indictment by a New York grand jury of the Chinese metals company and its manager, Lee Fangwei, said Jiang Yu. She added that China's nonproliferation policy is clear, consisting of "strict and effective export controls." China opposes the U.S. "invoking domestic law" to impose sanctions on a Chinese company.

Hijacking of Taiwan Fishing Vessel

¶9. China takes the hijacking of the Taiwan fishing vessel "very seriously" and has been in touch with the "relevant authorities" as well as various Chinese Embassies to "safely rescue" the boat and crew, said Jiang Yu. China has also contacted authorities in Taiwan to express its "willingness to assist" with the incident. Jiang Yu added that the MFA Consular Department has issued a warning for Chinese vessels to avoid dangerous waters in the area, and that China "opposes international piracy, in accordance with relevant UN resolutions."

Former French Leaders to Visit China

¶10. Three former French leaders will visit China in April, said Jiang Yu. Former French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin will attend an economic and trade fair, while former French President Jacques Chirac will meet with Chinese leaders at the invitation of the Institute for Foreign Affairs. Bernard Accoyer, the President of the National Assembly of France, will also visit China in April at the invitation of the National People's Congress (NPC). Jiang Yu

added that Sino-French relations were in "recovery" and that the joint PRC-France press release, issued during the G-20 summit in London, signaled the "ushering in of a new era" in bilateral relations between the two countries. When asked about Chinese leaders' potential visit to France this year, Jiang Yu said she had no additional information.

Cyber-spy Attack on U.S. Electric Grid

¶11. Jiang Yu urged American media to "prudently" handle "erroneous accusations" alleging that Chinese cyber-spies hacked into the U.S. electric grid. Jiang claimed the White House had denied the report's veracity. When asked about the U.S. Government's reportedly spending USD 100 million in six months on responding to cyber attacks, Jiang Yu said that China, too, was a victim of cyber crime and that it was "willing to enhance its cooperation with the international community" to fight this problem.

U.S. Steel Industry Anti-dumping Suit

¶12. When asked about an anti-dumping suit filed by the U.S. steel industry against China, Jiang Yu referred the journalist to the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM).

"Settlement Currency" and ASEAN 10+3

¶13. The spokesperson referred to "competent authorities" a question about China's decision to allow exporters in five cities to invoice in renminbi (RMB). She added, however, that at the upcoming Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) 10+3 meetings in April in Thailand, financial cooperation will be discussed. She pointed out that such cooperation between 10+3 countries had achieved "great breakthroughs" and that due to the large foreign exchange reserve collectively held by the 10+3 countries, the region's ability to "withstand financial risk" was "enhanced."

Bo'ao Forum

¶14. Premier Wen Jiabao will give a keynote speech at the Bo'ao Forum

BEIJING 00000953 003.2 OF 003

for Asia (BFA) April 17-19 in Hainan, said Jiang Yu. She added that many foreign leaders will attend the forum, entitled "Asia: Managing Beyond Crisis," including President Zardari of Pakistan, President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, President Gnassingbe of Togo, Prime Minister Bayar of Mongolia, Prime Minister Thein Sein of Burma, Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung of Vietnam, Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen of Finland, Prime Minister Sali Berisha of Albania, Prime Minister John Key of New Zealand, Prime Minister Somare of Papua New Guinea and the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand. Former President George W. Bush and former Prime Minister Fukuda of Japan will also attend.

Official Visits

¶15. Jiang Yu announced that President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan will visit China April 15-19 at the invitation of President Hu Jintao and that Prime Minister Somare of Papua New Guinea will visit China April 14-19 at the invitation of Premier Wen Jiabao. Jiang Yu added that China and Kazakhstan are "friendly neighbors and strategic partners," stating that during President Nazarbayev's visit, he will attend the Bo'ao Forum and that the two countries will sign a series of "cooperative agreements."

WEINSTEIN